

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION
ON THE
DEPARTMENT OF UNIVERSITY EXTENSION.

JANUARY, 1916.



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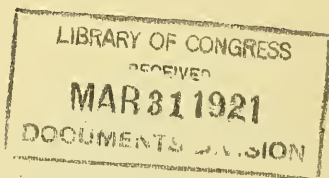
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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION ON THE DEPARTMENT OF UNIVERSITY EXTENSION.

In accordance with section 5 of chapter 294 of the General Acts of 1915 the Board of Education herewith submits its first annual report for the Department of University Extension.

The Board of Education, in a report made to the General Court in 1912, in accordance with chapter 60 of the Resolves of 1911, on improving and making more uniform the education now furnished by the high schools in the Commonwealth, and on providing higher and supplementary education additional to that offered, stated, among other conclusions, that, as contrasted with advanced phases of higher education in certain other progressive States, the Massachusetts system exhibits a deficiency in that certain sections of the State do not have the advantages of university extension, and that the Commonwealth might provide a special officer, under the State Board of Education, to organize and promote university extension work. (House No. 1647 (1912), pp. 12, 16, 20 and 21.)

In a report made by the Board of Education to the General Court of 1915, as required by chapter 105 of the Resolves of the year 1914, on the proposed establishment of a State university to provide free instruction to persons regularly in attendance, and to persons within the State not in attendance, and on other means of promoting higher education, the Board again called attention to the need of extension courses, and repeated its recommendation regarding such courses, as made to the Legislature of 1912. (House No. 485 (1915), pp. 4, 17, 25 and 32.)

The Governor of the Commonwealth, in his inaugural address of 1915, recommended legislation providing for university extension and correspondence courses. A conference of representative citizens was called by him to discuss these proposals. A State advisory committee appointed by the Governor prepared a bill providing for the establishment of university extension and correspondence courses. As a result, the General Court enacted legislation (chapter 294 of the General Acts of 1915) creating a Department of University Extension under the direction of the Board of Education. A copy of the act is given herewith.

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A DEPARTMENT OF UNIVERSITY EXTENSION AND
TO PROVIDE FOR CORRESPONDENCE COURSES OF EDUCATION.

SECTION 1. There is hereby established a department of university extension to be under the direction and control of the board of education. The head of said department shall be appointed by the board of education, with the approval of the governor and council, and his salary shall be fixed by the board with the approval of the governor and council. He may be removed at any time by the said board of education.

SECTION 2. The said department of university extension is hereby authorized to co-operate with existing institutions of learning in the establishment and conduct of university extension and correspondence courses; to supervise the administration of all extension and correspondence courses which are supported in whole or in part by state revenues; and also, where that is deemed advisable, to establish and conduct university extension and correspondence courses for the benefit of residents of Massachusetts: *provided*, that nothing in this act shall be construed as giving to the said department or to the board of education the control or direction of extension and correspondence courses in agriculture or in subjects directly related thereto when these are administered under the direction of the Massachusetts Agricultural College. The said department, subject to the approval of the board of education, may employ such agents, lecturers, instructors, assistants and clerks, for whole or part time, as may be necessary for proper compliance with the provisions of this act. With the approval of the governor and council and of the board of education, it may rent suitable offices for the conduct of its work.

SECTION 3. The said department for the purposes of such university extension or correspondence courses, may, with the consent of the proper city or town officials or school committees, use the school buildings or other public buildings and grounds of any city or town within the commonwealth, and may also use normal school buildings and grounds and, with the consent of the boards or commission in charge of the same, such other school buildings as are owned or controlled by the commonwealth.

City and town officials and committees are hereby authorized to allow the use of buildings and grounds under their charge by the department of university extension for the purposes of university extension or correspondence courses, subject to the rules and regulations which such officials or committees may establish: *provided, however*, that such use shall not interfere or be inconsistent with the use of said buildings and grounds by the public schools of the city or town. The said department may also arrange for the use of such other buildings, grounds, and facilities as may prove to be necessary for the conduct of its work, and may expend in rent therefor such sums as may from time to time be necessary.

SECTION 4. The department of university extension is empowered to appoint a state advisory council and also local advisory councils on university extension and correspondence courses, the functions of which shall be defined by the rules and regulations of the board of education.

SECTION 5. The board of education shall submit to the general court, on or before the third Wednesday of January of each year, a detailed report of the doings and expenditures of the said department for the year closing on the first day of the previous July.

SECTION 6. The said department is authorized to grant to students completing courses of instruction provided for under this act suitable certificates as evidence of proficiency, in accordance with rules and regulations to be established by the board of education.

SECTION 7. The department of university extension, for the purposes of complying with the provisions of this act, may be allowed for the salary of its head, agents, lecturers, instructors, assistants, clerks and other service, and for travel and other necessary expenses of these officers, incurred in the performance of their official duties under this act, such sums as shall be appropriated annually by the general court, payable out of the treasury of the commonwealth.

SECTION 8. There may be expended under the direction of the board of education in carrying out the provisions of this act for the year nineteen hundred and fifteen, a sum not exceeding twenty-five thousand dollars.

SECTION 9. This act shall take effect upon its passage. [*Approved May 28, 1915.*]

Since the passage of this act, May 28, 1915, the Board of Education has selected a director of the department, and partially organized a working staff. James A. Moyer began service as director of the department Oct. 20, 1915. In addition, two members of the staff, Joseph W. L. Hale, in charge of correspondence study, and Robert H. Spahr, in charge of extension classes, have entered upon their duties.

The Department of University Extension has issued through the Board of Education a bulletin, — No. 1, 1916, — a copy of

which is filed herewith, containing information on correspondence courses to be offered in 1916. This bulletin has been widely distributed throughout the State.

The Commissioner of Education in the seventy-ninth annual report of the Board of Education (pages 55 to 57) discusses the probable future development of the Department of University Extension.

At present the quarters assigned the department are so small that its work is being done under serious disadvantages.

The Board is also required to report upon the expenditures of said department for the year closing on the first day of the previous July. No expenditures were incurred previous to that date for 1915, and consequently no financial report is required for this year.

Respectfully submitted,

FREDERICK P. FISH, *Chairman*,
JEREMIAH E. BURKE,
ELLA LYMAN CABOT,
JAMES CHALMERS,
A. LINCOLN FILENE,
THOMAS B. FITZPATRICK,
FREDERICK W. HAMILTON,
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Members of the Board.

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